

REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed June 12, 2003, claims 1-10, 24-30, 38-39 and 49-68 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. Claims 11-23, 31-37, 40-48, and 69-70 were withdrawn from consideration. Claims 1, 4-10, 24-30, 38-39, 56-59 and 62-63 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

To advance prosecution, claims 1, 4-10, 24-30, 38-39, 56-59 and 62-63 have been cancelled without prejudice. Applicant does not concede to the rejection of these claims. Claims 2, 60 and 64 have been made independent. Claims 2 and 60 have been amended to overcome the 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph rejections of claims 1 and 56. The definition of m and n have been clarified in Claims 2 and 60. These amendments to claims 2 and 60 are supported by the specification as filed on page 10 and page 12, for example. The dependency of claims 3, 49-54, 61 and 66-68 has been amended for consistency. The rejection of claims 7-10, 24, 57-59 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph is moot due to the cancellation of those claims. Withdrawn claims 11-23, 31-37, 40-48 and 69-70 have been cancelled without prejudice.

Appl. No. 09/854,181
Amdt. dated December 11, 2003
Reply to Office Action of June 12, 2003

CONCLUSION

In view of the above, it is believed claims 2, 3, 49-55, 60-61, and 64-68 are allowable. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested. If there are any issues remaining to passage of the case to issuance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned.

This Response to Office Action is accompanied by a Petition for a Three Month Extension of Time. A check in the amount of \$950.00 is also enclosed for the extension of time fee due for a large entity. If this amount is incorrect, however, please charge any fee due, including any extensions of time required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 07-1969.

Respectfully submitted,



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